



Rainey March Political Survey

March 23-26, 2026

This poll surveyed 1,021 registered voters via online panel from March 23, 2026 to March 26, 2026. Results were weighted by 2024 vote, gender, age, race, and education to match population demographics. The margin of error is ±3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Q1. When you think of the American Dream, you...

Have achieved it	23%
Are on the way to achieving it	33%
Achieving it is out of reach	44%

Q2. When you think of the American Dream, your children...

Have achieved it	9%
Are on the way to achieving it	41%
Achieving it is out of reach	22%
I don't have children and don't expect to	28%

Q3. Is the border more secure now than when Biden was President?

More secure now	53%
More secure when Biden was President	21%
Not sure	26%

Q4. Do you believe that a four-year college degree is still worth the cost for most Americans today?

Yes, a four-year college degree is still worth the cost	26%
No, a four-year college degree is no longer worth the cost for most people	56%
Not sure	18%

Q5. Were you aware that the federal government currently holds approximately \$1.7 trillion in student loans, making it one of the largest financial portfolios in the world?

Yes, I was aware of this	20%
I knew there was a lot of student loan debt but did not know the exact amount	40%
No, I was not aware of this	33%
Not sure	7%

Q6. Which comes closer to your view about who should be primarily responsible for providing student loans?

The federal government should continue to be the primary provider of student loans with the backing of taxpayers	36%
Private financial institutions such as banks should be primarily responsible for student loans	34%
Not sure	30%

Q7. Do you think the current federal student loan system is working well for borrowers, or does it need significant reform?

The current system is working well	7%
The current system needs some minor changes	21%
The current system needs significant reform	50%
Not sure	21%

The federal government guarantees nearly all student loans, but colleges and universities face little financial consequence when their graduates cannot find jobs or repay their loans.

Q8. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Colleges and universities should face more accountability when students who graduate with federally backed loans cannot repay them?

Strongly agree	31%
Somewhat agree	30%
Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	8%
Not sure	21%

Some people have proposed that federal student loans should only be available for degrees in fields with strong job placement and earning potential, such as STEM, healthcare, and skilled trades. Other degrees would need to be funded through scholarships, private loans, or the universities themselves.

Q9. Do you support or oppose this idea?

Strongly support	18%
Somewhat support	32%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	14%
Not sure	22%

Q10. Do you support or oppose limiting federal student loan amounts to in-state tuition rates, so that students attending more expensive out-of-state or private institutions would need to cover the difference through other means?

Strongly support	20%
Somewhat support	31%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	9%
Not sure	26%

One proposal would convert the government's \$1.7 trillion student loan portfolio into bonds that private investors could purchase - similar to how mortgages are packaged and sold. The government would set strict standards and borrower protections, while private companies would handle servicing. Supporters say this would get money back into the Treasury, improve loan servicing, and reduce taxpayer risk. Critics worry it could lead to private companies profiting from student debt.

Q11. Based on this description, do you support or oppose this approach to reforming the student loan system?

Strongly support	14%
Somewhat support	28%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	10%
Not sure	32%

Another proposal would create Student Loan Repayment Insurance - an affordable add-on to monthly student loan payments (a few dollars per month) that would cover your loan payments for up to six months if you experience an unexpected hardship like losing your job, a medical emergency, or having a child. This insurance does not currently exist for student loans.

Q12. Do you support or oppose the creation of Student Loan Repayment Insurance?

Strongly support	27%
Somewhat support	36%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	7%
Not sure	23%

Q13. Would you support President Trump pursuing a major innovation of the student loan system that moves loans off the government's books, brings in private sector efficiency, and protects borrowers with new repayment insurance rather than continuing the current system or pursuing blanket loan forgiveness?

Strongly support	21%
Somewhat support	27%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	17%
Not sure	25%

Q14. In recent years, the federal government has faced a budget shutdown or near-shutdown approximately every three to six months. How do you feel about this?

It is unacceptable and Congress needs to fix the process	58%
It is frustrating but sometimes necessary to resolve policy disagreements	18%
It does not really affect my life	12%
Not sure	12%

Currently, a Jimmy Carter-era government memo allows federal agencies to shut down when Congress fails to pass a budget on time. Some have proposed that instead, the government should automatically continue operating at current funding levels until a new budget is passed, eliminating shutdowns entirely.

Q15. Would you support or oppose automatically continuing government operations at current funding levels when Congress fails to pass a new budget on time?

Strongly support	29%
Somewhat support	30%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	7%
Not sure	23%

Q16. Would you support or oppose Congress passing a federal budget every two years instead of every year, in order to reduce the frequency of budget crises and shutdowns?

Strongly support	24%
Somewhat support	35%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	6%
Not sure	24%

Q17. Overall, do you feel you are getting good value for the taxes you pay to federal, state, and local governments?

Yes, I feel I get good value	10%
I get some value, but not enough for what I pay	28%
No, I do not feel I get good value for my tax dollars	47%
Not sure	14%

Q18. Do you feel federal, state, and local taxes take too much of your paycheck?

Yes	82%
No	18%

Q19. Roughly what percentage of your total income do you think goes to all taxes combined - including federal, state, local, property, and sales taxes?

Less than 20%	16%
20-30%	34%
31-40%	19%
41-50%	5%
More than 50%	4%
Not sure	22%

Q20. Are you aware that large technology companies are building data centers in many communities across America to power AI and cloud computing?

Yes, very aware	42%
Somewhat aware	33%
Not very aware	12%
Not at all aware	12%

Q21. Some people believe data centers use large amounts of water that gets wasted. Before today, did you believe this?

Yes, I believed data centers waste a lot of water	30%
Yes, I believed they use a lot of water but wasn't sure if it was wasted	28%
No, I didn't think they used much water	17%
I had no opinion on this	25%

Modern data centers recycle water similarly to how car washes recycle water. Many facilities fill their cooling systems once and reuse the same water for up to 10 years. Some newer facilities use gel-based cooling systems that require minimal water.

Q22. Does knowing this information change your view of data centers?

Much more supportive of data centers	10%
Somewhat more supportive of data centers	19%
No change in my view of data centers	40%
Somewhat less supportive of data centers	7%
Much less supportive of data centers	7%
Not sure	17%

Q23. Do you believe data centers in your area are driving up your electricity costs?

Yes, significantly	23%
Yes, somewhat	22%
No, not really	9%
No, not at all	4%
There are no data centers in my area	15%
I don't know	26%

President Trump has announced a "ratepayer protection pledge" requiring major technology companies that build data centers to generate their own electricity by building their own power plants so that local residents' electricity prices are not affected.

Q24. Do you support or oppose the ratepayer protection pledge?

Strongly support	36%
Somewhat support	29%
Somewhat oppose	6%
Strongly oppose	6%
Not sure	24%

President Trump has announced a "ratepayer protection pledge" requiring major technology companies that build data centers to generate their own electricity by building their own power plants so that local residents' electricity prices are not affected.

Q25. Does knowing that tech companies are required to build their own power for data centers change your view?

Much more supportive of data centers	14%
Somewhat more supportive of data centers	24%
No change in my view	35%
Somewhat less supportive of data centers	6%
Much less supportive of data centers	4%
Not sure	17%

When technology companies build data centers in a community, they often invest in upgrading local electrical infrastructure including transmission lines and grid modernization, create community investment funds that support local charities and programs, and bring construction and operations jobs to the area.

Q26. Does knowing about these community benefits change your view of data centers being built near your community?

Much more supportive	11%
Somewhat more supportive	26%
No change in my view	38%
Somewhat less supportive	5%
Much less supportive	4%
Not sure	16%

Q27. If a data center being built in your area would also result in significant upgrades to the local electrical grid and infrastructure that benefit all residents, would you be more or less supportive of the project?

Much more supportive	15%
Somewhat more supportive	30%
Would not change my view	28%
Somewhat less supportive	5%
Much less supportive	5%
Not sure	18%

Q28. How concerned are you that security cameras used in American homes, businesses, and government buildings may use Chinese-made software that could allow foreign access to the footage?

Very concerned	32%
Somewhat concerned	31%
Not too concerned	15%
Not at all concerned	7%
Not sure	15%

Q29. Would you support or oppose banning the use of Chinese-developed software in security cameras operating in the United States?

Strongly support	32%
Somewhat support	19%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	19%
Not sure	20%

Data stored overseas can potentially be accessed by foreign governments and used to train artificial intelligence systems that compete with or threaten American interests.

Q30. How concerned are you that data collected from American security cameras and other devices is being used by China and other countries to develop their own AI capabilities?

Very concerned	43%
Somewhat concerned	29%
Not too concerned	11%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	13%

Q31. Would you support your state passing legislation to ban the storage of residents' personal data in Chinese data centers and to require certification of security camera hardware and software used within the state?

Strongly support	45%
Somewhat support	23%
Somewhat oppose	6%
Strongly oppose	7%
Not sure	19%

Q32. When it comes to how states administer elections, do you favor or oppose the following: Using information from the Social Security Administration and state death certificates to remove voters who are no longer living.

Strongly favor	50%
Somewhat favor	22%
Somewhat oppose	4%
Strongly oppose	7%
Not sure	17%

Q33. In order to identify ineligible voters, should states cooperate on a nationwide database that provides information on whether voters have moved or have duplicate registrations?

Yes, states should cooperate on a nationwide database	58%
No, states should manage their own voter rolls independently	25%
Not sure	18%

Q34. Overall, which of the following comes closest to your views about elections and voter registration?

The government should prioritize making it as easy as possible to vote	35%
The government should prioritize making sure that everyone who registers is actually eligible	53%
Not sure	12%

Twice in the last year Democrats have shut down all or parts of the government for more than 30 days in order to enact policy changes. First, Democrats refused to fund the government in order to negotiate an extension of tax credits for health insurance. Second, Democrats partially shut down the government to negotiate changes to how Immigration and Customs Enforcement conducts immigration enforcement. Government shutdowns cause airport delays, closures to some public parks, cuts to food stamps, slower processing of tax returns and affect other vital business.

Q35. What comes closer to your view:

Democrats are right to shut down the government to secure policies supported by the majority of Americans	32%
Democrats shouldn't use shutting down the government as a tactic to secure policy wins because it hurts the American people	52%
Not sure	16%

Q36. Which parts of the government is it most important to protect from future shutdown?

	Absolutely essential. Should never shut down.	Important, should not remain shut down for long.	Less important, can shut down for a while.
The Department of Defense, Department of War	62%	23%	15%
The Department of Education	42%	29%	29%
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	36%	32%	31%
The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	53%	29%	18%
The Department of Justice	54%	30%	16%
The Internal Revenue Service (IRS)	34%	29%	37%
The Department of Homeland Security	58%	26%	16%

Q37. The Department of Homeland Security is currently purchasing warehouses, with the intention to retrofit them as detention centers for illegal immigrants awaiting deportation. Do you support or oppose this plan?

Strongly support	22%
Somewhat support	20%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	31%
Not sure	17%

Q38. The Department of Homeland Security is currently purchasing warehouses, with the intention to retrofit them as detention centers for illegal immigrants awaiting deportation. Some in the Department of Homeland Security argue that the agency should instead purchase facilities from companies like CoreCivic and GEO Group that are already in use. Which plan do you prefer?

Retrofit warehouses	19%
Buy facilities already in use	34%
Not sure	47%